

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for automatically adjusting power level of a terminal in a radio communications system, the method comprising:
 - receiving a transmission burst from the terminal;
 - determining power level of the transmission burst; and
 - transmitting a message specifying the determined power level to the terminal.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the terminal selectively adjusts transmission power based upon the message.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the transmission burst contains information on signal quality.
4. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - measuring signal-to-noise ratio of the transmission burst.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the radio communications system is a two-way satellite communication system having a star topology.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step and the transmitting step are performed on a real-time basis.
7. A terminal apparatus for providing automatic power level adjustment in a radio communications system, comprising:
 - a transceiver configured to receive a transmission burst from a terminal; and
 - logic configured to determine power level of the transmission burst and to generate a message specifying the determined power level to the terminal.
8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the terminal selectively adjusts transmission power based upon the message.
9. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the transmission burst contains information on signal quality.
10. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the logic determines the power level based upon a signal-to-noise ratio.
11. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the radio communications system is a two-way satellite communication system having a star topology.
12. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the logic determines the power level of the transmission burst on a real-time basis.

13. A radio communications system for providing closed-loop power control, the system comprising:

a first terminal configured to transmit a transmission burst; and

a second terminal configured to receive the transmission burst from the first terminal and to determine power level of the transmission burst, wherein the second terminal generates a message that specifies the determined power level, the message being transmitted to the first terminal.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein the first terminal selectively adjusts transmission power based upon the message.

15. A system according to claim 13, wherein the transmission burst contains information on signal quality.

16. A system according to claim 13, wherein the second terminal is configured to measure signal-to-noise ratio of the transmission burst.

17. A system according to claim 13, wherein the first terminal communicates with the second terminal over a satellite that supports two-way communications having a star topology.

18. A system according to claim 13, wherein the determination of the power level and transmission of the message are performed on a real-time basis.

19. A terminal apparatus for providing automatic power level adjustment in a radio communications system, comprising:

means for receiving a transmission burst from the terminal;

means for determining power level of the transmission burst; and

means for transmitting a message specifying the determined power level to the terminal.

20. An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for selectively adjusting transmission power based upon the message.

21. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the transmission burst contains information on signal quality.

22. An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for measuring signal-to-noise ratio of the transmission burst.

23. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the radio communications system is a two-way satellite communication system having a star topology.

30. A computer-readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the determination of the power level and transmission of the message are performed on a real-time basis.